

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated August 13, 2003 in which the Examiner rejects all the pending claims 1-36 as either being anticipated by Gudjonsson et al (US Patent No. 6,564,261) under 35USC §102(e) or as being obvious over Gudjonsson only or over Gudjonsson in view of DeSimone (US Patent No. 6,175,619) under 35USC §103(a). Applicants have further amended independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36 to more precisely and properly define the present invention, and respectfully traverse the rejections of the Examiner based on the amendment and the detailed explanations as follows.

As disclosed in the Specification and explained in the responses to previous Office Actions, the present invention discloses a technique to establish a voice call. In particular, as taught by the present invention, an offer to participate in a voice call with a destination party designated by an offeror, which is in the form of an electronic token generated by or caused to be generated by the offeror, is transmitted to an offeree through an electronic mail (e-mail) message. Thereafter, the offeree may select to accept the offer by activating the electronic token and a voice call between the destination party and the offeree is initiated immediately in response to the offeree's acceptance. Through the amendments to independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36, the present invention is now defined in clearer and more precise and concise language. Additionally, claim 33 has been amended to correct a language defect so as to overcome the objection in the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion of the Examiner that the present invention as defined in the claims is anticipated by or is obvious over a combination of the cited patents, as explained in detail below.

Gudjonsson et al (US Patent No. 6,564,261) discloses a system in which a communication session can be established between two users without knowing each other's address (IP address or telephone number) or device type (mobile phone, PC, etc.). To do so, the messages are transmitted though at least one intermediate routing service but not directly between users (see. e.g., col. 9, lines 27-29 and col. 13, lines 21-24). Throughout the disclosure of Gudjonsson, the call session is initiated by the offeror, i.e., the user who sends the invitation, and the receiving user may select to accept (or deny) the "incoming call" (see, e.g., col. 26, lines 7-17 as cited by the Examiner). Therefore, the system in Gudjonsson works in a conventional way except that a routing service (RS) stands between the calling party and the called party to shield the addresses and device types. In other words, the call is not initiated in response to the acceptance of the called user. It is also noted that the email service mentioned in Gudjonsson (col. 34, lines 13-16 as cited by the Examiner) is a regular email service, and has nothing to do with sending an offer of voice call to be accepted by a recipient, as disclosed in the present invention. Therefore, the present invention as defined in independent claims 1, 16, 32 and 36 is not anticipated by Gudjonsson.

DeSimone (US Patent No. 6,175,619) discloses a system for establishing a telephone call between two participants in a text chat room without a need to know each other's telephone number. In particular, the initiator who seeks to establish the call sends a request to a Call Broker and receives a session identification and a Participant Authorization Code (PAC), and then forwards them to the called party using instant messaging or a text discussion in a private chat room. After the called party uses the received information to contact the Call Broker, a telephone call is established by the Call Broker which calls both the initiator and the called party. However, The session information and the PAC in DeSimone are sent from the initiator to the called

participant not by email, but through instant messaging or the text chat. In fact, there is no motivation in DeSimone to send them by email as both the parties are communicating to each other by text chatting in real time. Therefore, DeSimone does not teach the present invention either, and claims 1,16, 32 and 36 are not anticipated by DeSimone.

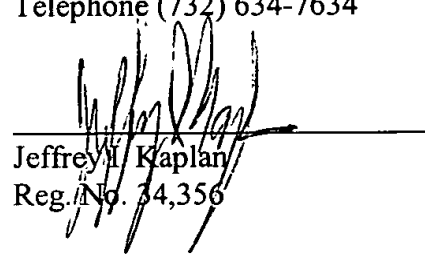
Moreover, as explained above, there is no benefit for DeSimone to transmit the call session information by email from the calling participant (the initiator) to the called participant. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine the teaching of email communications mentioned in Gudjonsson into the solution of DeSimone. Therefore, the applicants believe claims 1, 16, 32 and 36 are patentable under both 35USC §102(e) and 35USC §103(a). At least for the same reasons, dependent claims 2-15, 17-31 and 33-35 are also patentable.

The Applicants respectfully request a reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the amendment to the claims and the above remarks. The Examiner is authorized to charge any shortages or credit any overpayments to our deposit account number 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 10, 2003.

Dated November 10, 2003 Signed Fern Pekarofski Print Name Fern Pekarofski